

**Remarks**

Claims 1-32 were originally filed in this application.

Claims 1-14 and 17-30 were withdrawn from consideration and subsequently canceled to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Claims 33-35 were added in a Response dated August 26, 2008.

Dependent claims 36-46 were added and claims 33 and 35 were canceled in the Response dated March 17, 2009.

To facilitate prosecution of this application, claims 16, 31, 32, 40, 41, and 43 are currently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 36-39, 42, and 44 are currently amended without introducing new matter.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, new independent claim 47 is presented without introducing new matter. Dependent claim 48 is also newly presented as being directed to a further feature of the invention. No new matter is introduced in these claims and support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed.

Pending claims 15, 34, 36-39, 42, and 44-48 are allowable, with claims 15 and 47 being in independent form.

**Interview Summary**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview conducted on April 22, 2009.

During the interview, the Examiner acknowledged to Frederick Wilkins and Applicants' representative, Elias Domingo, that the reference cited in the Office Action mailed December 29, 2008 cannot preclude patentability under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), but further clarified that the corresponding publication, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. U.S. 2002/0189951 A1, would be available in lieu thereof in the rejection based on

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) noted in the Action. Applicants clarified that the claims as amended would nonetheless distinguish over the teaching of the reference.

The Examiner explained that independent claim 15 as presented in the Response dated March 17, 2009, would be allowable, and further suggested that independent claims 31 and 32 be similarly amended to be placed in allowable condition. Applicants agreed to submit a Supplemental Response accordingly, but reserved the right to pursue patentable subject matter as presented in the claims as originally filed.

Accordingly, pending claims 15, 34, 36-39, 42, and 44-48 are allowable.

#### New Claims

Claims 47 and 48 are newly presented. Independent claim 47 is presented in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion as explained above. Dependent claim 48 depends from independent claim 47 and recites additional features of the invention. These new claims are patentable for at least the reasons noted herein as well as those presented in the Response dated March 17, 2009.

#### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, this application is in condition for allowance; a notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this Supplemental Response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this Supplemental Response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/2762 (ref. no. I0168-707719).

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Ganzi *et al.*, Applicants

By: /elias domingo/  
Peter C. Lando, Reg. No. 34,654  
Elias Domingo, Reg. No. 52,827  
LOWRIE, LANDO & ANASTASI, LLP  
Riverfront Office Park  
One Main Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142  
Tel. (617) 395-7000  
Attorney for Applicants

Siemens Ref. No: 2003P86275US  
USFilter Ref. No.: USF/ION/123US  
LLA Ref. No.: I0168-707719